

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for mediating invoice data, the system comprising:
 - a reference table to maintain a data identifier related to invoice data and a mediation information associated with the data identifier, the mediation information identifying a mediation process for the invoice data; and
 - a mediation component in communication with the reference table and operable using the data identifier to obtain the associated mediation information to perform the mediation process on the invoice data.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the data identifier identifies a data source of the invoice data and the mediation component is operable to perform the mediation process on the source data based on the mediation information registered in the reference table.
3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the data is billing data.
4. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a special handling function controller and workflow adjustment controller, the special handling function controller and workflow adjustment controller in communication with the mediation component.
5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the special handling function controller controls at least a portion of the mediation process that is operable to process existing and available data.

6. The system of Claim 4, wherein the workflow adjustment controller controls at least a portion of the mediation process that require a workflow adjustment to capture data required for portions of the mediation process.
7. The system of Claim 6, further comprising a storage device coupled to the workflow adjustment controller and a processor for processing instructions from the mediation component.
8. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a mediation transform unit operable to transform the invoice data in accordance with a predetermined structure before either of the special handling function controller and workflow adjustment controller perform portions of the mediation process on the data.
9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the predetermined structure is an Extensible Markup Language schema stored in a repository coupled to the mediation transform unit.
10. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a data generation unit operable to output data on which the mediation process was performed.
11. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a direct data access controller for controlling the output of data from a data generation unit to either of the special handling function controller and the workflow adjustment controller.

12. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a user interface coupled to the reference table.
13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the user interface is a web service.

14. A method for performing a mediation process on invoice data, the method comprising:

- registering a data identifier and a mediation process corresponding to the data identifier in a reference table;
- generating invoices from one or more data sources;
- identifying invoices having related mediation processes;
- performing the mediation process on the data related to the invoice on the basis of information registered in the reference table; and
- generating a mediated output.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein each data identifier identifies a data source and the corresponding mediation process relates to the mediation process to be performed on data from that data source.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the data is billing data.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein performing the mediation includes performing the mediation process with at least one of a special handling function and a workflow adjustment function on received data.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising performing a data transformation process in accordance with a predetermined defining structure before performing any of a special handling function and the workflow adjustment function on the data.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined defining structure is an Extensible Markup Language schema.

20. The method of Claim 19 further comprising retrieving data directly from a data generation unit via a direct data access controller, wherein at least one of the special handling function and the workflow adjustment function is performed on the retrieved data.

21. The method of Claim 14, wherein the mediated output is further defined as a mediated invoice.

22. The method of Claim 14, wherein the invoices are further defined as telephone bills and wherein the mediated output is includes a portion of the call details from the telephone bill.

23. The method of Claim 14, wherein generating invoices from one or more data sources further comprises:

providing a first billing system operable to generate a first invoice; and

providing a second billing system operable to generate a second invoice such that
the mediated output is based on at least portions of the first and second
invoices.

24. A system for processing invoice data, comprising:
- a billing system operable to generate invoices in a first billing format;
 - a reference table to maintain a data identifier identifying a data source related to the invoices generated in the first billing format and a mediation information associated with the data identifier, the mediation information including a mediation process defining a second format for the data identified by the data identifier; and
 - a mediation component in communication with the reference table and operable using the data identifier to obtain the associated mediation information to perform the mediation process on the invoice.
25. The system of Claim 24, further comprising a second billing system operable to generate other invoices in other billing formats, and wherein the data identifier further includes the source of the other invoices and the mediation component is operable to generate mediated output based on input from both invoices generated by the first and second billing systems.
26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the mediated output is a billing invoice in another format.
27. The system of Claim 25, wherein the mediated output includes a call details record where the invoices are telephone bill invoices.

28. The system of Claim 25, further comprising middleware operable to use the mediation component and the reference table to generate the mediated output.

29. The system of Claim 25, further comprising:

a storage component operable to received data for storage;

a normalization component operable to normalize invoice data identified by the data identifier, such that the mediation component uses the normalized data to generate the mediated output.

30. The system of Claim 29, wherein normalization component is operable to separate invoice data from one or more billing system based on commonalities of the invoice data.

31. The system of Claim 29, wherein normalization component is operable to separate invoice data from one or more billing system based on commonalities of the first and second billing systems.